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RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Report by the Chairperson, of the seventh annual meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives/experts and chairpersons of working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, Ms. Katarina Tomasevski, submitted, pursuant to Commission on Human Rights decision 2000/109, annex, paragraph 11

1. Following the recommendation of the inter-sessional open-ended Working Group on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Mechanisms of the Commission that the special rapporteurs continue to closely follow the work currently under way in the General Assembly concerning a possible code of conduct for experts on mission (E/CN.4/2000/112 and decision 2000/109, annex, para. 11), the seventh annual meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme, held in Geneva from 5 to 9 June 2000, discussed ongoing developments and decided that the Chairperson should continue monitoring developments in respect of the draft code of conduct and report on her activities to the eighth annual meeting and that the eighth annual meeting would also consider the question of reviewing the draft guiding principles for special rapporteurs and merging it with the Manual for Special Rapporteurs (E/CN.4/2001/6, para. 105 (j) and (k)).

GE.01-12104 (E)

2. In its resolution 55/221 of 23 December 2000, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit additional information on whether the proposed regulations governing the status, basic rights and duties of officials other than Secretariat officials and experts on mission ensured the impartiality, neutrality, objectivity and accountability of the officials concerned and to undertake consultations on the proposed regulations regarding their possible impact on the independence of experts on mission who are elected by the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs.

3. On 29 January 2001, the Chairperson was asked by the Office of the Under-Secretary General for Management for comments by the special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme. She replied on 4 February 2001, noting that the eighth annual meeting would be held from 18 to 22 June 2001 and asking whether the comments could be forwarded thereafter. She also requested clarifications, background information and documents necessary for the review of the proposed regulations by the special rapporteurs.

4. As soon as a response has been received from the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, the special rapporteurs will initiate their review of the proposed regulations, forward their comments as requested and keep the Commission on Human Rights informed of all pertinent developments.